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| INFO Chief, SR Chief, WE | | | HEADQUARTERS FILE NO. <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| FROM Chief of Station, <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | | | DATE 8 January 1960 |
| SUBJECT REDWOOD/ATMARSH Transmittal of ATMARSH/15 Reports | RE: "43-3" - (CHECK "X" ONE) | | |
| | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | MARKED FOR INDEXING | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> | NO INDEXING REQUIRED | |
| ACTION REQUIRED FYI | INDEXING CAN BE JUDGED BY QUALIFIED HQ. DESK ONLY | | |

REFERENCE(S)

1. Herewith are reports prepared by ATMARSH/15 as follows:

Att. A - This is A/15's report in Latvian covering his general elicitation efforts with ☐ and the other Latvian tourists who visited Stockholm in October 1959.

Att. B - Is A/15's report in Latvian based on information from ☐ concerning the visit to Sweden in September 1959 of Valdemars VALDMARIS. (VALDMARIS' visit has previously been the subject of a report by ☐ in OSSA-9003, 25 September 1959.

Att. C - Is a report by ☐ reporting certain general conditions in Latvia as related by

Anna *JAUNVIKSNĀ (Born ca 1897, Latvia)

who arrived in Stockholm 13 November 1959 from Latvia.
Please note that she is the mother-in-law of Iden (U.S.C.).

2. Attachment C we have been able to translate here, but unfortunately must rely on Headquarters for translation of the other two reports. As in the past we would appreciate having copies of the English translations of Attachments A and B if these are made by Headquarters; or if full translations are not made, possibly we could have a summary of any parts you feel are pertinent to future actions in this project. DIR-04574 indicates translation difficulty with Latvian at Headquarters too, in light of which you may prefer to have A/15 prepare written reports in Swedish in the future. As will be seen from Att. C, A/15 is competent in Swedish, although he will obviously write more clearly and fully in his native language, and we would suggest that he continues writing such reports as are not of immediate importance to Flegger in Latvian, provided translation of Latvian is not going to be a permanent problem for Headquarters.

NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

Declassified and Approved for Release
by the Central Intelligence Agency
Date: 2005

EXEMPTIONS Section 3(b)

- (2)(A) Privacy ☐
(2)(B) Methods/Sources ☒
(2)(G) Foreign Relations ☐

Attachments:

- A, B, C as noted para 1
D. - Iden U.S.C.

7 January 1960

Distribution:

- 3 - SR w/atts & D U.S.C.
1 - WE w/att C & D U.S.C.
2 - ☐ ☐ w/cys of all atts.

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Sep. Cover Attachment to OCSA-9232

IDEN - C

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EXCURSION FROM OCCUPIED LATVIA TO STOCKHOLM

On 1 October 1959, a group of Baltic tourists arrived in Stockholm on the SS Baltic. The group consisted of 8 Latvians, 8 Estonians and 8 Lithuanians. The group leader was a Russian. The tourists stayed in the Hotel Malmen, where it was possible to meet them. The Latvian group consisted of the following: LAURIS, political instructor (politruk) (A.E.); docent TREIJS, who had a meeting with J. Ziverts; BERZAJA (formerly VINTERS), vice director of the Riga Dramatic Theater, who had a meeting with M. Ziverts; BACHS (his brother is in Boras); SAMSONE; EIZENSTAM, a Jew, roentgenologist; BERGMANIS, from Engr Popov's Radio Factory; and Paulis DUCMANIS, a Journalist.

On 2 October, it was possible to meet and talk simultaneously with Berzaja, Bergmanis and Bachs. At first they seemed surprised when I addressed them in Latvian, but later they became more confident; they discussed various questions with great animation and did not hesitate to express their sympathy with the occupying regime. Bergmanis and Berzaja defended their point of view most ardently, while Bachs agreed with the statements of his two companions in a more automatic fashion; sometimes he contradicted himself, which he immediately had to justify.

They tried to describe present-day life in Latvia in the brightest possible colors. They said an upswing was noticeable in all fields of life. There had been no more ruins in Riga for a long time. A new era of

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construction had begun. Many people were building their own homes. This was especially emphasized. An ordinary family home was said to cost about 30,000 rubles. The flow of traffic in Riga was the same as in Stockholm, since private cars were no longer scarce. Bachs said he too had a Moskvich. He works in some forestry and land development institution and often takes official trips. Bergmanis stresses that Latvia is being transformed into an industrial state. He admits that kolkhoz farming has not had any success, but one should not worry about it, since grain is obtained from the Ukraine. I pointed out that Latvia had always had sufficient grain and other agricultural products of its own in the past, and that we even exported quite a lot to other countries, so why has the situation changed so radically? Are the present farmers and farming methods worse than the old ones? Bergmanis was forced to admit the inefficiency of kolkhoz farming and the indifferent attitude of kolkhoz farmers to their work. With only a few exceptions, he admits that the kolkhoz situation is quite catastrophic, but, as he said before, the Ukraine would save everything.

During our conversation we mentioned the unnaturally great increase in the population of Latvia. According to Bergmanis, Riga has a population of 600,000. Bachs commented that it might be closer to 800,000. Berzajs came up with the arbitrator's judgment, saying that the actual population figure was in the vicinity of 750,000. Whether this figure includes the Russian military forces, no one could say. Not one of them denied the

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As regards questions about co-existence with the Russians, the answers were rather evasive and reserved. They said the Russians do not disturb the Latvians. Each nationality leads its own more or less separate life. In this way also some individual enterprises have been organized, where -- depending on whether the administration is Russian or Latvian -- the majority of workers quite naturally are of the same nationality. As an example, Bergmanis mentioned the Riga Radio Factory imeni Popov, where he himself is employed as an engineer. The Apsitis enterprise, which formerly had only several tens of workers, has now developed into a huge enterprise which employs over 2,000 workers and occupies a prominent position in the general USSR plan. Also VEF and the Riga Railroad Car Factory are operating on an all-Union scale. This was emphasized with special pride. Apsitis himself is said to have retired on a pension several years ago.

I tried to return once more to the question -- what sense did it make to transform our small agricultural country and people, by force, into an industrial country, as we have no great natural resources to be processed; while, at the same time, we must find shelter, work, clothing, and food for a huge crowd of occupiers-parasites? Hadn't we achieved the necessary balance between agriculture and industry during the period of Latvia's independence with a normal-size population? Being unable to indicate any shortcomings in the Latvian state economy of that time, Bergmanis replied heatedly that now no one is being exploited and that industry is essential for a social state. When they ran out of arguments, they began to ^{add} ~~ask~~ more

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and more standard phrases and party "truths" in their conversation. I pointed out that there never had been such great class distinctions in Latvia as there are now. There is no comparison between the status of the party bosses, artists, writers, sportsmen, etc., and that of the common laborers who do hard work and receive extremely low wages. Isn't that human exploitation? [They said] now a man works for the benefit of the state, and not for that of individual capitalists. I asked what would happen in the event of free elections, without Russian bayonets? Bergmanis claimed that the Russian bayonets had no importance whatsoever and the result of the elections would definitely be in favor of the Communists. He did not deny that there were some opponents to the regime, consisting mainly of remaining adherents of the former regime; however, their number was extremely small. Even now there were sometimes various annoyances which had to be suffered. As an example, he mentioned that the old foresters were being replaced by younger men just graduated from school, while the old foresters are kept as ordinary forestry workers.

In referring to events of the past, they unanimously blamed Stalin as the cause of all sufferings and misfortunes. At present deportations are no longer heard of, while all those who were deported during Stalin's time have returned. When I commented that packages were still being sent and letters were being written to Siberia, which definitely proves the existence of slave labor camps, these gentlemen claimed that they had no

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information about that. Khrushchev's role during Stalin's reign was said to have been quite unimportant and he cannot be regarded as an accomplice in Stalin's criminal activities. I expressed some slight doubt about this, since the events in Hungary proved that even in their opinion the "humane" Khrushchev can be just as cruel and bloodthirsty as his former boss Stalin.

In the morning of 3 October I telephoned Paulis Ducmanis at the hotel. He remembered me immediately and expressed the wish to see me. We agreed to meet at 2000 hours near the hotel. Since he had to go to some official party, we arranged to meet the next day, 4 October, in my apartment. The conversation was carried on very frankly. He described his life since the war and the gradual development of events in Latvia up to the present time. Even on this evening we were unable to talk about all the questions which interested us both. Therefore we arranged to meet once more on 10 October, when the group was to return to Stockholm on its homeward journey, after touring Sweden.

I have known P. Ducmanis since 1941, when he was editor of the Daugavpils newspaper. At that time he did not conceal the fact that he belonged to the "Perkonkrusts" organization. In his desk drawer he still kept a photograph of Gustavs Celmins. He had proved himself as a capable journalist and was very much interested in art and literature. Later Ducmanis became editor of the "Kuldigas Vestnesis" during the time of the Kurzeme stronghold. Finally he became a war correspondent with the 19th Division. After the capitulation, he became a Russian prisoner of war and was sent to some

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camp near Leningrad, where he stayed for 3 years. After his return from prison camp, he lived for a long time in Riga without being registered. According to D., at that time there was a better "forest" in Riga, as the confusion was so great that he could live in Riga with the support of friends. After Stalin's death and the proclamation of amnesty, it became possible to legalize oneself, and since that time he "began to live." Gradually he turned again to journalism and began to write for a sports publication. Because of his journalistic ability, he was engaged by the newly published newspaper "Rigas Balss" and was given the position of acting chief (editor) of the information department. He expressed doubt that he would be able to remain in this position for very long, as it should actually be occupied by a Communist Party member. Among other things, he was also engaged in some translation work, since he was fluent in several languages. He had also begun to write stories. In Stockholm, D. had met the writer Janis Grins, A. Kroderis, A. Johansons, and he wished to meet Arturs Berzins and Dz. Sodums. He asked me not to write anything about his meetings and conversations with the Latvians in Stockholm, for in that case he would have to account for it after his return home. The fewer "official" meetings he had, the easier it would be for him to get along with the administration. It may be added that in spite of D.'s request and J. Grins' promises, some very undesirable and completely misinforming articles appeared about the excursion, and particularly about Ducmanis, in America's "Latvija" and also in Germany's "Latvija." It has been ascertained

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that the author of the articles in the American paper is Janis Rudzitis, whom Ducmanis had neither seen nor met personally, but who, for the purpose of sensationalism, had fabricated a series of tendentious and incorrect articles from statements made by J. Grins.

P.D.'s Description of Living Conditions in Occupied Latvia:

The period just before the capitulation of the Kurzeme stronghold was full of deep disappointments and disillusionments. As the capitulation drew near, the soldiers who had gone through hard and heroic battles were left to their fate. The colonels sought to acquire minister's portfolios and tried with all their might to leave "the sinking ship." This had created a very depressing atmosphere and a feeling of desertion among the population and the soldiers. Then followed the capitulation with endless sufferings, humiliations and Russian oppression. The people were forced to their knees, they were exhausted and in rags. When a man goes through great hardships, hope is his only consolation. At such times rumors and betrayals are most likely to occur. Rumors were spread and believed about the most fantastic things: one expected the Americans, the British, and even the Swedes, and naturally in vain. The people lost hope, they became indifferent and listless; but above all, they wanted to live. Reprisals and deportations ^{followed} moved like an epidemic disease. The forests were full of soldiers and civilians, who sought refuge there from the oppression and lawlessness of the Russians. Then, all of a sudden,

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Stalin was on his deathbed. With bated breath the people waited for the end of this monster and, maybe, for the moment of liberation. But their hope was not fulfilled, for a new dictator stepped in the place of the old one.

Looking backward, it should be noted that the 1949 deportations were the most extensive, and the Latvian peasantry was destroyed to its very roots. After Stalin's death, things gradually eased up to some extent. The Cheka ceased to make nightly arrests. This was the period of greatest relaxation, as one could be fairly certain that no one would be bothered without any obvious reason; therefore, if people did not show open resistance to the existing regime, they did not have to fear any persecution. After the proclaimed amnesty, one could register and try to find a job. It was possible to earn something and acquire some necessities of life. The people who had heretofore been deeply oppressed could raise their heads a little and "begin to live." There was a great shortage of intelligentsia and specialists in all fields of life. Many former workers at first stayed away from fulfilling their duties under the Russian regime. In Ducmanis' opinion, that was a great mistake, since the vacancies were filled with inefficient persons and Russians. It would have been better to think of the possible preservation of national unity [among the Latvians].

In 1956, the Latvian people were again stirred up by the disturbances in Poland and the uprising in Hungary. Once again hopes were kindled that, maybe, the hour of liberation had finally come. Everyone who had a chance

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to hear foreign radio broadcasts sat patiently at their radio sets and greedily listened to the news, especially from England and West Germany, which were heard most clearly. One expected the immediate interference and aid to Hungary by Americans and other allies. It seemed that the long awaited moment had come, when all oppressed nations could arise in order to shake off their oppressors. A spirit of elation prevailed. Instead of the expected help from the West, Khrushchev hurried to the "aid" of Hungary and the heroic Hungarian people were drowned in their own blood. The Latvian people do not want to suffer such a fate. The disappointment and bitterness is directed mainly against the Americans, as it is believed that the Americans had incited the Hungarians to revolt and had promised help, but had then abandoned them in their misfortune. One cannot speak about any further hopes. The people must try to secure their material position, preserve their Latvian spirit, and live within the possible limits. There was nothing else to do but be loyal to the regime.

Ducmanis compares present-day life in Latvia with living under a definite roof. The height of the roof is determined by Moscow, and the local Communist Party watches closely that no one tries to jump out of this designated shelter. Living conditions are improving steadily. People have enough to eat and to wear. Latvia produces textiles of a fairly good quality, but they are old-fashioned and lack variety. After a textile mill has begun to produce one kind of fabric, it is manufactured in such

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great quantities that the customers begin to get tired of this uniformity. The same thing is noticeable in ^{other} fields of production, where there is often a surplus of one certain item, but other, equally necessary, items are not available on the market. He mentioned, for example, that some factory had begun to produce mustard-pots in such great quantities that all warehouses were filled up to the ceiling; there was no more demand for them on the market, but production continued "according to plan." Once the machinery had been started, it is not so simple to stop it. Especially the ladies complain about the shortage of fabrics; they are very anxious to get some good cotton fabrics which have become so popular in the West.

Relief packages are not as important as they used to be. Commission stores are full of merchandise from the West, and the prices have dropped considerably. Naturally, those who can afford it will definitely try to buy something original which has come from the West. He had bought the material for his suit (British) for 400 rubles per meter. Sewing is very expensive. All articles of clothing are said to be unstylish and clumsy, one cannot compare them with those seen in Stockholm. Recently a large amount of textiles is being received from Czechoslovakia and China. Comparing merchandise prices in Stockholm and Riga, Ducmanis came to the conclusion that consumer goods here [in Stockholm] are far better, more tasteful, and cheaper; but luxury goods, i.e., radio and television sets,

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etc., are cheaper in Riga. Another unfortunate thing is that the goods produced according to plan are not available just at the time when they are needed: fur coats and felt boots sometimes have to be bought in the summer, but bathing suits in the winter.

Cultural entertainment is also cheaper in Latvia, such as theater and concert tickets, as well as books. In general, occupied Latvia has nothing special to offer in cultural achievements. Writers of prose are mediocre; he particularly censured V. Lacis. The young poets are said to be more successful; for example, Saulitis [first name not given]. Among the old ones, J. Medenis is still a whole grade above all the rest.

He had no idea of the cultural work of Latvians in exile. When I showed him some books published in Stockholm, he was surprised and enthusiastic that anything so valuable was being done here. He greatly regretted Svabe's passing away. I asked him if he would like to take some books with him. [He said] he would like to take all of them, but he was not permitted. He asked me if I couldn't give him some children's schoolbook published in Stockholm. He tore out the first page of a Latvian language textbook with the Latvian state emblem and the national anthem, saying that he knew that by heart. When I mentioned that our young generation is growing up in the Latvian spirit, had not forgotten the Latvian language, was united in various organizations, and in general was nationalistically inclined, D. was pleased and said - well, then everything is all right. Young people in Latvia are forced to grow up in the Communist

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spirit, but nevertheless their national feelings are strong. They are very hard-working and serious, as they realize that they have to fight against heavy Russian odds in all fields of life; their aim is to attain the highest possible education, so they can get ahead in life and secure their position. Communist education and propaganda have left their traces. Terms like factory-owner, kulak, landowner etc., have acquired an abusive meaning, being equivalent to bandit, robber and murderer. But every young man will react relentlessly to anything which would destroy or degrade his homeland. They return with pride from other republics after successful victories in sports events. In the event of free elections, D. anticipates that there will at first be a strong leftist majority in the government, since all those who, rising from the status of laborers or servants, have gained leading positions will want to retain a system which has placed them in such a prominent position. They also realize that during the period of any changes one will have to expect certain reprisals or persecutions. Ducmanis added that many people are not well inclined towards him because of his present occupation.

Criticism is heard more and more frequently. It is possible to express oneself rather freely about various shortcomings in the economic and administrative field; naturally one must not touch upon the Party or its leaders personally. Khrushchev's visit in Riga was fairly well received, as he knows how to please the masses with various small gestures. For example, Kalnberzins

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had received the instruction that he should try to speak more in the Latvian language. When Khrushchev noticed a line forming outside a dairy store, he asked what it was for and then gave the order that the milk should be distributed in such a way that one would not have to stand in line. It turned out that the milk in the store was sour and the people had to wait until a fresh supply of milk was brought and distributed. There is said to be enough milk; it is even shipped in railroad tank-cars to Leningrad. These examples show that Khrushchev knows how to show himself as a thoughtful boss and defender of the people. I asked whether the people do not remember the bloody events in Hungary, if they can get enthusiastic over such trifles. D. answered that the people do not think about it, and many even do not understand the relationship between events, but consider such incidents as a sign of evolution: things are getting better and better every day. D. added: you and I think more deeply about such questions, but at home we dare not talk about it. He considered the removal of Berklaivs as resulting from the fact that he was a victim of a tactical error, since B. had openly and directly shown national tendencies in his work. A secret struggle against Russian domination is noticeable in all fields of life, especially in literature and art; one cannot always follow a direct course, but one must frequently go by long and winding detours.

There is also a strong campaign against deforestation and against Latvia's complete transformation into an industrial state. Lithuania is said to be in its power, firmly and has had some success. There is said

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to be a project to combine the rayons into the former districts [uyezds?]. Agriculture has greatly profited from the abolition of the MTS and the distribution of machines among the kolkhozes. Now the machines are available when necessary. There are also no more of the huge combines which were not suited to Latvian conditions. The situation of kolkhoz workers has improved since the introduction of a definite daily wage. It is possible, by cultivating small individual plots and raising some small livestock, to have a little income on the side. The kolkhozes have their TV and movies, they arrange small parties with drinks and other entertainment, so that provisions are made for the masses to be occupied and to spend their leisure in superficial entertainment.

The Russian agrarian policy has reached its aim: the peasantry has become weak and dependent on the state. The landowners have been deported, but the former hired servants, who worked hard in the old times, have attained leading positions. The people now, more than ever, are aware of class distinctions. There are only a few in the so-called top echelon, far beneath them are the remaining party members, then come the rest of the people, and in the last place -- those who were victims of the change in regime. Recently some of the old aristocrats have again been appointed to many positions in Russia.

The question of medicine has greatly improved. A new generation of doctors has been added. In general, doctors' salaries are low in hospitals and polyclinics, but the rayon doctors earn much more and are in a very good material position.

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There are a great many (?) Russian soldiers in Latvia. Latvian youths perform military service mainly in the Baltic Military District and have proved themselves as very good soldiers. The territorial corps was disbanded after the disturbances in Georgia.

There are many Jews in Riga, mostly businessmen (merchants), who are quite rich.

Travel outside the Iron Curtain is fairly complicated. It is usually arranged by some trade union in coordination with a person's place of employment. The number of allotted places [for traveling], which is usually very small, is publicly made known at the places of employment. The applicants are appraised (given consideration) by their employers and the further formalities of departure are handled by the trade union. Usually the family or other close relatives remain at home as a pledge.

The "Voice of America" broadcasts are not very effective; their reception in Riga is poor, but somewhat better in rural areas. The broadcast contents are often very indifferent and one can feel that the mentality of the people in Latvia is not understood in the West. They [the Latvians] are not interested in boasts about accumulated riches and about the high standard of living, as they know that themselves; but they should be given full information about the aims of the Western world and the definite steps undertaken for the liberation of oppressed nations. Very little is known at home [in Latvia] about the scientific and cultural work done by Latvians abroad. Only that is known which the Russian propaganda advertises, i.e., about the quarrels [among] themselves and the dangers of extermination.

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Conclusions: We, living in the West, must show a way of mutual understanding with the Latvians at home. We must prove, not by abusive language, but by correct propaganda and facts, that the present situation in the world cannot last for ever, and that a solution must come. Secondly, the Latvians in exile are not extinct, they are studying and working, so that some day ^{they} may be useful in the common task of restoring their native land with the help of the experience they have gained abroad. Examples have proved that our aspirations may find a response only among the middle-aged generation. The old generation is approaching the grave, but the young generation, which has never seen anything else, sees its defender in the greater native land [USSR]. We must give them the opportunity, legally or illegally, to read the works of Latvians-in-exile and of writers of other nationalities, which they are very eager to read. One must strive to meet all the people who come over here as tourists, and tell them, in calm and thoughtful discussions, about the freedom over here. After they return home, they will -- without being aware of it -- tell the others about their experience. We must have transmitters that can be heard over there.

It may be added that D. ^{showed} great enthusiasm for the local modern architecture. He had not even imagined anything similar to what he had seen in Vällingby. Before leaving, he promised to write to me and send me books.

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The Communists are making use of every opportunity to induce Latvians abroad to return to occupied Latvia, or at least to go there for a short visit. They send all kinds of agents and even family members from Latvia. For this purpose, Sweden is particularly popular. At the end of September 1959, the painter Valdemars VALDMANIS visited Stockholm, where he met his brother, Vilis Valdmanis, also a painter. The latter has lived in Värmland, Sweden, since 1945. He came here after fleeing from the Soviet occupation forces, together with his foster father and his mother. His brother is now a Communist Party member. He worked for a while in Riga in the Academy of Arts. He went on the trip to Sweden so that he could, on a so-called "scientific travel assignment", collect material for illustrations to Selma Lagerlöf's book. Under the cover of this assignment, he also devoted considerable effort to persuading his brother to return to Riga, where he could obtain an assistant's position in Urban's landscape class at the Academy of Arts. The brother in Sweden, naturally, considered this offer as unrealistic, at least for the immediate future. Valdmanis stayed at a hotel in Stockholm, where, according to his statements, he was frequently visited by members of the Soviet Embassy, Rimjanis and Lapins. They checked Valdmanis's baggage, especially the books he had acquired in Stockholm. He was not allowed to spend the night with friends or acquaintances. His travel allowance was fairly high, Kr. 42.00 per day, not including the hotel.

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The most characteristic points of Valdmanis' statements: At present, the Latvian intelligentsia in Latvia has to withstand strong political pressure exerted by Russian art, which bears down heavily on the whole national culture. Moscow is trying, as much as possible, to level the characteristic national traits in all fields of art, by imposing the Slavic element. It was encouraging to hear Valdmanis' statement that the resistance of Latvian artists to this Russification was spontaneous and so far unbroken. Thus, for example, some mediocre Russian painter by the name of Petrashkevich was not accepted into the Artists' Union. Finally, he did get in, but on the basis of directives given by Moscow comrades. To resist Russian pressure, especially in the fine arts, the Latvians are trying to show, with exhibitions organized in Riga, at least a part of the achievements of emigre painters; in this way they try to emphasize the wider range of Latvian art.

The third brother of Valdmanis was a member of the Legion and disappeared during the deportation of 1945/1946. A cousin, also a former legionnaire, is ill in Riga. Valdmanis had to wait 7 months for his permit to travel to Sweden. He had to have statements [recommendations] from a trade union organization and from the police. On his return to Riga, he was to report to his supervisors on everything he had done, seen and heard.

There is said to be much drinking in Latvia, especially in artists' circles. The living standard is satisfactory.

Valdmanis was accompanied to the Stockholm airport by Soviet Embassy representatives in their car.

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Om förhållanden i Lettland berättar Anna Sandviksna (62 år), som kom till Sverige den 13.11.1959.

I Lettlands städer finns det enormt mycket ryssar, som mestadels är militärer, tjänstemän och ambetsmän. På sistida tiden går rykten om att i Lettland skall invaderas ännu mera ryssar (130.000). I städerna råder bostadsbrist. Det fattas arbetskraft på landet. I Lettland strömmar in de ryska svarthandlarna, som tyder att här finns fortfarande något mera än annanstans. På grund av den stora bostadsbristen främjas egnahems byggen, men på sistona de som överstiger 60 m² - nationaliseras. Byggnadsmaterial är ej lätt att få. Som följd blir att ofta byggs det med stulet. Alla stjäls! Även 95% av de privata bilarna är köpta för pengar som fått man med att sälja stulna varor från arbetsplatser.

Stämningen i folket - utan hopp. Detta betyder, att man måste vänja sig vid och sam leva med nuvarande regimen. Det ekonomiska livet har förlämnats och går det fortfarande. Varor finns, men ej då de behövs: sommarkläder på vintern - vinterkläder på sommaren och samma även med jordbruksredskapen.

Nuförtiden förekommer mera skiter i gator mellan ryssar och baltar. Den nya generationen växer upp i kommunistisk anda.

I Sibirien finns fortfarande många deporterade. Av de år 1941 deporterade har ej många kommit tillbaka, särskilt männen. De som återvänder från Sibirien är kroppsligt och själsligt invalider, har svårt att finna sig i de nuvarande förhållanden, har svårt att få arbete eller bostad. Ganska ofta förekommer det, att letter som kommer från straffläger blir inte registrerade och som följd kan ej bosätta sig i Lettland. Därför händer det, att de frisläppta slaverna återvänder till sina lagerstäder i Sibirien. I områden Salaspils och Ogre pågår hemligt byggande och på några platser och vägar finns det skyttar, som förbjuder tillträde för befolkningen.

1958 gick rykten om, att i Östersjön skall komma till stånd gemensamma ryska och svenska manöver. I samband med det hoppades man att svenskar skall invadera Lettland.

Folket följer med och kände djup medlidande med det ungerska folket 1956, och förstod inte att amerikanerna ej hjälpte folket, som de själva till och med utspelat. Polackerna med sina oroligheter har dock nått fram till en viss förbättring.

Tidningen "Diena Balss" är tillgänglig endast i Riga. I denna återspeglar man i ministertationen, jordbrukspolitiken och, överhuvudtaget, den sista för folkets val.

Man kan säga att i Lettland är inte regeringen ej censurerad.

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Communications in Latvia by some of the Latvians
(arrived in Sweden 13 November 1959)

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1. In the cities of Latvia there are found large numbers of Russians who for the most part are military functionaries and government officials. In recent times there has been a rumor they will be invaded by a force of possibly 130,000 (This is only one of the many figures mentioned, varying from several thousand to a 130,000 which seems to be the most common mentioned). In the cities there is a housing shortage and there is a shortage of common labor in the country. Soviet black marketers still operate in Latvia which indicates that more goods are to be found there than most other places. Because of the large housing shortage private home construction is being fostered, but lately those buildings which exceed 60 square meters (presumably floor space) are being nationalized. Building material is not easy to come by, as a result it often happens that they are built with stolen goods. Ninety-five percent of the private homes are bought with money which has been gotten through the sale of goods stolen from places of work.

2. The mood of the people: without hope. This means that one must move along and cooperate with the present regime. Economic life has improved and continues to improve. Consumer goods are found but not when they are needed: summer clothes in winter, winter clothes in summer and the same thing with regard to agriculture equipment.

3. In the present time more marriages between Russians and Balts are occurring. The new generation is growing up in Communist environment.

4. There are still many deportees in Siberia. Of those deported in 1941 not many have returned especially the men. Those who have returned from Siberia are physical and mental invalids. They have difficulty of orienting themselves in the existing conditions. They have difficulty to get work or living places. Very often it happens that Latvians who return from penal labor cannot become registered, as a result cannot settle again in Latvia. It happens, therefore, that the released slaves return to their camp sites in Siberia. In the area of Salaspils and Ogre a secret construction is under way and at some places there are signs which forbid trespassing of the people.

5. In 1952 it was rumored that in the Baltic concurrent Soviet and Swedish maneuvers (naval) should occur. In this respect it was hoped that the Swedes would invade Latvia. (The reporter realizes the improbability of this rumor, but said there was nevertheless apparently one which circulated widely inside of Latvia at the time.) The people of Latvia follow and felt sympathy with the Hungarian people of 1956 and did not understand that the Americans would not help the people who they themselves had earlier incited. The Poles with their unrest have, however, attained certain improvement.

6. The newspaper, Rīgas Balss, is obtainable only in Riga. In this paper are reflected shortcomings in the administration, agriculture policies and above all the case for the people of welfare.

7. Censorship is strict but is thought that this does not apply to mail circulating within the Soviet Union. The source had brought with her several letters.

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